

## CLAIMS

- [c1] 1. In a communication device, a method for determining participants in a net within a group communication network, the method comprising:
- sending a message to a controller, the message being for determining whether the communication device is a participant in the net; and
- listing the communication device as a participant in the net if the controller sends a response to the message within a predetermined time period.
- [c2] 2. The method of claim 1, further including transitioning the communication device to an inactive state if the controller does not send a response to the message within a predetermined time period.
- [c3] 3. The method of claim 1, wherein the message includes information identifying the communication device.
- [c4] 4. The method of claim 1, wherein the message includes a message identifier.
- [c5] 5. The method of claim 4, wherein the response includes information identifying the message identifier.
- [c6] 6. The method of claim 1, wherein the response includes information indicating that the response corresponds to the message.
- [c7] 7. The method of claim 1, wherein the response includes information indicating whether the communication device is a participant in the net.
- [c8] 8. The method of claim 1, wherein the sending includes sending the message through a push-to-talk (PTT) device.
- [c9] 9. In a communication device, a computer-readable medium embodying a method for determining participants in a net within a group communication network, the method comprising:

sending a message to a controller, the message being for determining whether the communication device is a participant in the net; and

listing the communication device as a participant in the net if the controller sends a response to the message within a predetermined time period.

[c10] 10. The computer-readable medium of claim 9, wherein the method further includes transitioning the communication device to an inactive state if the controller does not send a response to the message within a predetermined time period.

[c11] 11. The computer-readable medium of claim 9, wherein the message includes information identifying the communication device.

[c12] 12. The computer-readable medium of claim 9, wherein the message includes a message identifier.

[c13] 13. The computer-readable medium of claim 12, wherein the response includes information identifying the message identifier.

[c14] 14. The computer-readable medium of claim 9, wherein the response includes information indicating that the response corresponds to the message.

[c15] 15. The computer-readable medium of claim 9, wherein the response includes information indicating whether the communication device is a participant in the net.

[c16] 16. The computer-readable medium of claim 9, wherein the sending includes sending the message through a push-to-talk (PTT) device.

[c17] 17. A communication device for determining participants in a net within a group communication network, the method comprising:

means for sending a message to a controller, the message being for determining whether the communication device is a participant in the net; and

means for listing the communication device as a participant in the net if the controller sends a response to the message within a predetermined time period.

- [c18] 18. The communication device of claim 17, further including means for transitioning the communication device to an inactive state if the controller does not send a response to the message within a predetermined time period.
- [c19] 19. The communication device of claim 17, wherein the message includes information identifying the communication device.
- [c20] 20. The communication device of claim 17, wherein the message includes a message identifier.
- [c21] 21. The communication device of claim 20, wherein the response includes information identifying the message identifier.
- [c22] 22. The communication device of claim 17, wherein the response includes information indicating that the response corresponds to the message.
- [c23] 23. The communication device of claim 17, wherein the response includes information indicating whether the communication device is a participant in the net.
- [c24] 24. The communication device of claim 17, wherein the sending includes sending the message through a push-to-talk (PTT) device.
- [c25] 25. A communication device for determining participants in a net within in a group communication network, the communication device comprising:  
a memory unit for storing information about participants in the net;  
a transmitter to send a message to a controller;  
a receiver to receive a response from the controller; and  
a processor communicatively coupled to the receiver, the transmitter, and the memory unit, the processor being capable of:  
sending a message to a controller, the message being for determining whether the communication device is a participant in the net; and

listing the communication device as a participant in the net if the controller sends a response to the message within a predetermined time period.

[c26] 26. The communication device of claim 25, wherein the processor further is capable of transitioning the communication device to an inactive state if the controller does not send a response to the message within a predetermined time period.

[c27] 27. The communication device of claim 25, wherein the message includes information identifying the communication device.

[c28] 28. The communication device of claim 25, wherein the message includes a message identifier.

[c29] 29. The communication device of claim 28, wherein the response includes information identifying the message identifier.

[c30] 30. The communication device of claim 25, wherein the response includes information indicating that the response corresponds to the message.

[c31] 31. The communication device of claim 25, wherein the response includes information indicating whether the communication device is a participant in the net.

[c32] 32. The communication device of claim 25, wherein the sending includes sending the message through a push-to-talk (PTT) device.

[c33] 33. The communication device of claim 25, wherein the communication device is a push-to-talk (PTT) device.